



REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH,

FOR THE YEAR 1914, BY

R. WOOLSEY STOCKS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health to the Borough.

TO WHICH ARE APPENDED THE REPORTS OF THE
TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER, CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR,
FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTOR, AND PUBLIC ANALYST.

WEST BROMWICH:

JOSEPH BATES, CAXTON PRINTING WORKS, 12 & 14, PARADISE STREET.

MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.

Population, 1911 Census	...	...	...	68,345
Estimated Population middle of 1914	...	...	...	69,430
Area	...	...	...	5,860 acres.
Height of West Bromwich—				
Highest Level is	...	...	...	573-ft.
Lowest Level is	...	...	...	347-ft.

Rateable Value of Property assessed to the				
Relief of the Poor, November, 1914...	£236,654	10	0	
Rateable Value of Property assessed to the				
General District Rate, November, 1914	£217,896	5	0	
Number of houses in Borough, Census, 1911	...	14,825		
Number of Inhabited Houses, Census, 1911	...	13,952		
Average number of persons per house	...	4.9		

County Borough of West Bromwich.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
SANITARY COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

An early summons to mobilise immediately with a Stationary Hospital for abroad has prevented me from carrying out my intention of analysing the various Statistical Tables for the year 1914 before going abroad.

I would, consequently, ask your permission to publish the Tables as they stand, together with the Reports of the Tuberculosis Officer (Dr. J. A. M. Clark), the Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr. H. H. Spears), the Public Analyst (Mr. H. Sylvester), and the Food and Drugs Inspector (Mr. G. W. Davis).

I would most cordially thank you, Gentlemen, and all the Members of the Town Council and the Education Committee, for your kindness in giving me permission to temporarily join His Majesty's Forces, and am most grateful for the generous manner in which you have treated me.

I most sincerely hope that, as soon as practicable after the cessation of hostilities, I may be able once more to take up my work in West Bromwich, when I will endeavour to bring the Report on the Health and Sanitation of the Borough up to date at the first opportunity.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. WOOLSEY STOCKS,

Lt. R.A.M.C.

Aldershot, November 22nd, 1915.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number	Rate.	of Non- residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
1909	70000	2134	...	30.5	1356	19.3	162	10	262	122	1204	17.0
1910	70500	2020	...	28.0	1180	16.8	141	9	213	106.5	1048	14.8
1911	68424	2038	2014	29.4	1221	17.8	172	41	281	139.5	1090	15.9
1912	68750	2015	1991	28.9	1112	16.7	151	46	244	122.5	1007	14.6
1913	69088	2107	2094	30.3	1351	19.4	129	30	294	140.4	1252	18.1
1914	69430	2283	2269	32.6	1220	17.5	128	43	238	104.4	1092	15.7

TABLE II.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

Notifiable Disease.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						65 and upwards.	
		Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.		
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	62	1	19	28	8	6	...	...	..
Erysipelas	77	6	1	2	9	22	23	14	..
Scarlet Fever	349	4	101	221	13	10	...	...	259
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	3	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	1
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	10	...	...	...	4	6	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	106	1	2	12	19	58	13	1	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	33	4	7	16	3	3	...	...	...
TOTALS	649	24	131	280	56	107	36	15	260

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths, whether of "Residents" or "Non-residents" in Institutions in the District. 11.
	All Ages. 2.	Under 1 year. 3.	1 and under 2. 4.	2 and under 5. 5.	5 and under 15. 6.	15 and under 25. 7.	25 and under 45. 8.	45 and under 65. 9.	65 and upwards. 10.	
ALL CAUSES, { Certified ... { Uncertified	1065 27	223 15	79 2	78 ...	49 1	38 ...	109 ...	208 4	281 5	290 ...
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Measles ...	26	3	7	14	2	..	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever ...	17	...	...	9	8	...	...	...	...	11
Whooping Cough ...	23	12	5	6	...	...	...	..	...	..
Diphtheria and Croup	18	...	2	8	8	...	...	...	...	2
Influenza ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	1
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	65	1	...	...	2	11	35	15	1	22
Tuberculous Meningitis	9	2	2	1	3	1	...	...	...	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	12	5	2	3	2	...	...	...	...	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	45	1	...	1	...	1	6	25	11	18
Rheumatic Fever ...	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1
Meningitis ...	6	4	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	57	...	...	...	2	4	7	26	18	25
Bronchitis ...	113	20	10	3	...	1	3	31	45	13
Pneumonia (all forms)	92	22	18	11	6	4	5	13	13	12
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ..	18	2	1	4	1	1	3	3	3	4
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	52	32	17	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	13	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	4	1
Alcoholism ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	39	2	2	4	1	...	3	17	10	6
Puerperal Fever ...	5	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	7	...	...	...	...	1	5	1	...	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	94	93	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	40	1	1	6	5	4	5	11	7	32
Suicide ...	14	...	...	...	...	...	3	8	3	4
Other Defined Diseases	293	35	7	5	7	5	24	47	163	121
Diseases Ill-defined or Unknown ...	20	2	5	...	1	...	1	6	5	1
TOTALS ...	1092	238	81	78	50	38	109	212	286	290

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1914.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Under 1 week	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
All causes	{	Certified	...	44	13	9	9	75	53	42	25	35	230
		Uncertified	..	4	...	...	...	4	1	1	2	...	8
Measles ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Whooping Cough ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	4	12
Erysipelas ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Abdominal Tuberculosis ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	5
Convulsions				2	...	...	1	3	3	2	...	2	10
Laryngitis ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Bronchitis ... ..				...	...	1	1	2	8	4	2	3	19
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..				...	...	1	2	3	1	7	6	6	23
Diarrhœa ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	4	6	5	3	18
Enteritis... ..				...	...	...	1	1	2	5	1	4	13
Gastritis ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	5
Syphilis ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	4
Rickets ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Injury at Birth				1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Atelectasis				4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
Congenital Malformation				4	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	5
Premature Birth				27	5	3	2	37	6	...	...	...	43
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus				9	7	4	1	21	11	8	3	1	44
Other Causes				1	1	...	1	3	6	2	3	2	16
TOTALS				48	13	9	9	79	54	43	27	35	238
Nett Births in the year—Legitimate												2176	
Illegitimate												93	
Nett Deaths in the year—Legitimate Infants												221	
Illegitimate Infants... ..												17	

TABLE V.
PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1912.

Summary of Notifications during the period from the 4th January, 1914, to the 2nd January, 1915, in the County Borough of West Bromwich.

Age-periods	Notifications on Form A.													Notifications on Form B.				Number of Notifications on Form C.		
	Number of Primary Notifications.													Number of Primary Notifications.				Total Notifications on Form B.	Poor Law Institutions.	Sana- toria.
	Total Notifi- cations on Form A.													Total Primary Notifica- tions.						
	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 and upwards	Total Primary Notifica- tions.	Under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	Total Primary Notifica- tions.				
...	1	1	2	5	2	8	13	16	5	1	...	54	99	...	...	1	1	12	1
"	...	1	2	3	4	5	17	12	6	1	1	52	68	...	...	1	1	2	...
Non-pulmonary Males	1	2	6	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
"	3	5	3	5	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	19	...	...	1	...	1	...	...

TABLE VI.

SWABS SENT TO UNIVERSITY DURING THE
YEAR. 1914.

		Negative.		Affirmative.		Total.
Tuberculosis	...	40	...	12	...	52
Diphtheria	...	49	...	8	...	57
		(of which 23		(of which 1		
		were contact.)		was contact.)		
Typhoid Fever	...	1	...	1	...	2
		(both were from same case.)				

TABLE VII.

INFANT MORTALITY IN EACH POLLING DISTRICT
AND WARD FOR YEAR 1914.

POLLING DISTRICT.	Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births.	TOTAL FOR WARDS.		
				Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births.
SANDWELL WARD—						
District 1 ...	58	3	51·7			
„ 2 ...	79	6	76·0			
„ 3 ...	114	6	52·6			
„ 4 ...	53	4	75·5			
LYNDON WARD—				304	19	62·1
District 5 ...	93	10	107·5			
„ 6 ..	73	13	178·0			
„ 7 ..	69	6	87·0			
„ 8 ..	86	9	104·7			
HILL TOP WARD—				321	38	118·3
District 9 ...	73	8	109·6			
„ 10 ...	72	9	125·0			
„ 11 ..	88	18	203·4			
„ 12 ...	40	3	75·0			
GREET'S GREEN WARD—				273	38	139·2
District 13 ...	90	7	77·7			
„ 14 ...	49	9	183·7			
„ 15 ...	61	9	147·5			
„ 16 ...	94	11	117·0			
TOWN HALL WARD—				294	36	123·5
District 17 ...	130	11	84·6			
„ 18 ...	124	11	88·7			
„ 19 ...	82	12	146·3			
„ 20 ..	122	14	114·7			
SPON LANE WARD—				458	48	107·0
District 21 ...	100	8	80·0			
„ 22 ...	111	8	77·7			
„ 23 ..	106	31	283·0			
„ 24 ...	74	12	162·1			
				391	59	151
TOTAL FOR BOROUGH ...	...	...	...	2041	238	116·6

The figures for the Births are approximate.

TABLE VIII.

TABLE OF SUCCESSFUL VACCINATIONS
FROM 1904 TO 1914.

Year.		Births Registered.		Successfully Vaccinated.
1904	...	2279	...	1891
1905	...	2138	...	1809
1906	...	2198	...	1867
1907	...	2140	...	1800
1908	...	2265	...	1557
1909	...	2139	...	1330
1910	...	2039	...	1123
1911	...	2038	...	1011
1912	...	2047	...	986
1913	...	2052	...	921
1914	...	1137	...	478

(to end of June.)

TABLE IX.

PARTICULARS AS TO ACTION TAKEN UNDER
THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

No. of Workshops at end of 1914:—

Workshop Bakehouses...	...	...	...	40
Wholesale Confectioners	...	...	...	2
Brewers and Maltsters	...	...	...	5
Workshop Laundries	...	...	...	2
Dressmaking and Tailoring Establishments	...	...	...	32
Milliners	...	...	...	15
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	15
Upholsterers and Cabinet Makers	...	...	...	3
Joiners and Carpenters	...	...	...	14
Wheelwrights and Blacksmiths...	...	...	...	20
Tinsmiths and Ironworkers	...	...	...	5
Breeze Banks	...	...	...	6
Saddlers	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous Trades	...	...	...	38
				<hr/> 203 <hr/>

PARTICULARS OF DEFECTS FOUND.

Nuisances under Public Health Acts:—

Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	9
Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	1
				<hr/> 18 <hr/>

Eleven references were made by H.M. Inspectors as to matters remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Acts.

TABLE X.

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY ARTICLE V. OF THE
HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULA-
TIONS, 1910, IN REGARD TO THE INSPECTION OF
DWELLING-HOUSES UNDER SECTION 17 (1) OF
THE HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACT, 1909.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of the Section	732
Number of such dwelling-houses which were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	54
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which repre- sentations were made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders	54
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made by the Local Authority	54
Number of dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	184
Number of dwelling-houses which, after the making of Closing Orders, were made fit for human habitation	24
General Character of the Defects found to exist in the dwelling-houses inspected:—	
General dampness; dilapidated plastering, woodwork, and brickwork; walls and ceilings requiring to be cleansed and limewashed or re-papered; leaking roofs; insufficient and defective spouting; windows not made to open; and insufficient yard paving.	

TABLE XI.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF HEALTH VISITOR
UNDER NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT, 1907,
AND MIDWIVES ACT.

Total Cases Visited	...	...	...	...	3447
Normal	...	...	...	...	953
Defective	...	...	...	...	377
Breast fed	...	...	...	...	1306
Bottle fed	...	...	...	...	94
Breast or Bottle and other forms of feeding	...	...	...	...	3
Cases of Twins	...	...	...	...	10
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	30
Mother dead	...	...	...	...	3
Mother or Father delicate	...	...	...	...	191
House dirty	...	...	...	...	171
Unregistered Midwives	...	...	...	...	2
Mother goes out to work	...	...	...	...	60
Stillborn	...	...	...	...	45
Premature	...	...	...	...	46
Died early	...	...	...	...	18
Delicate Infants	...	...	...	...	126
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	—
Congenital Deformities	...	...	...	...	3
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	2
Posthumous	...	...	...	...	3
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	4

Tuberculosis Officer's Report.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY,

2, LODGE ROAD,

WEST BROMWICH,

July, 1915.

To the Chairman and Members of the Tuberculosis Sub-Committee, County Borough of West Bromwich.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my first Report on the work of the Tuberculosis Dispensary in West Bromwich.

The period embraced by this Report is a short one of only two months, the Dispensary having been opened towards the end of October. Even in that time sufficient proof has been forthcoming to show that Tuberculosis in West Bromwich is a much greater evil than has hitherto been imagined.

There is urgent need, at the present time, for the provision of accommodation for the acute and advanced cases, who must remain at home a source of constant danger to other members of the household.

My thanks are due to Dr. Stocks for much valuable advice and help in the initial organisation of my department.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES A. M. CLARK,

Tuberculosis Officer.

TABLE I.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE FROM OPENING OF
DISPENSARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1914.

	Adults over 14.		Child- ren under 14.	TOTAL.	
	Males.	Females			
No. of New Cases Applying	30	25	34	89	
Re-attendances	93	83	73	249	
No. of Insured Persons commencing treatment at Dispensary	27	15	...	42	
New Cases taken on at Dispensary ...	29	22	29	80	
Referred to other Institutions ... ..	...	1	1	2
New Patients Examined (Round No.) ...	...	...	...	89
Old Patients Re-examined ... ..	...	...	...	34
Sanatorium Cases transferred to Dis- pensary	6	4	...	10	
Dispensary Cases transferred to Sana- torium	4	2	...	6	
Patients who have ceased attending on advice of T.O.	1	...	...	1
HOME VISITS :—					
Tuberculosis Officer	First Visit	5	...	1	6
	Re-visits
Nurse	First Visit	28	20	18	66
	Re-visits ...	26	30	15	71
CONTACTS—					
No. of Infecting Cases	4	5	3	12	
No. of Contacts Examined ... ..	...	4	18	22
No. of Contacts found Tuberculous	...	1	15	16	

ATTENDANCES AT THE DISPENSARY.

Since the opening in October, 1914, the Dispensary has been open on Mondays, from 3 to 5; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 to 12; and on Wednesdays, from 4-30 to 6-30 p.m. An alteration in these times, however, will be made when the Dispensary at Walsall becomes ready in January, 1915.

Eighty-nine patients applied for treatment. Of these nine were found to be non-tuberculous, and of the others 42 were insured under the National Insurance Act.

SEX AND AGE CONSTITUTION.

The sex and age constitution of the 80 persons receiving treatment at the Dispensary is shown in the following Table:—

TABLE II.
SEX AND AGE CONSTITUTION OF PERSONS
ATTENDING THE DISPENSARY DURING 1914.

Ages.			1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40 and up-wards.	Total No. of all Ages.
Males	...	...	...	11	6	4	11	9	4	45
Females	...	...	1	6	6	7	8	7	...	35
Total No. of both Sexes	...	...	1	17	12	11	19	16	4	80

It will be seen that out of the 80, no fewer than 30, or 37.5 per cent., were children under the age of 15.

On the suggestion of the Medical Officer of Health, one morning per week, probably Saturday, will be set aside as a special Clinic for Tuberculous and Tuberculously-inclined children from the schools; the number of such children at present excluded from the schools from Tuberculous disease being a comparatively large one.

As showing the scope of the work undertaken at the Dispensary, the following Table (Table III.) is given. Though the figures are small, it is instructive, as showing the types of case which may successfully be treated at the Dispensary. It is a well recognised fact that the local forms of Tuberculous

disease are especially amenable to Tuberculin treatment, and many of those cases are being treated now by Tuberculin injections.

TABLE III.
SHOWING THE SITE OF DISEASE IN 80 PERSONS
WHO HAVE BEEN UNDER TREATMENT.

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Lungs	36	18	54
Lungs and Glands	4	6	10
Lungs and Larynx ... ..	...	2	2
Glands	4	7	11
Abdomen	1	2	3
	45	35	80

VISITS TO THE HOMES.

These are undertaken for the most part by the Nurse, and those visits paid to the patients in their own homes are of the greatest importance, for it is undoubtedly true that the chief source of infection exists in the dwellings of the patients. Persons who have been exposed to infection ("contacts") are thus sought out, and persuaded to submit to examination, and can thereafter be kept under observation. It has been the aim to ensure a friendly feeling in these visits and to obviate as far as possible any suggestion of officialism. In order that proper hygienic surroundings be secured for the patient, it is necessary to educate the other members of the family.

Since her taking up duties in November, 1914, the Nurse has paid 66 first visits and 77 re-visits to the homes. Particulars are obtained, not only of the general aspect of the homes, but also of the conditions under which the patients live, and these particulars are given in Tables IV. and V.

It will be observed that definite overcrowding was found in 13 of the houses visited. Attempts are made in every case to remedy this, though too often our efforts in this direction are not successful. In addition, any sanitary or structural defects are reported to the Sanitary Office and further inquired into, and the fault remedied if possible.

TABLE IV.

HOME CONDITIONS *re* 66 CASES OF ALL FORMS
OF TUBERCULOSIS VISITED.

CLEANLINESS AND GENERAL ASPECT OF HOUSES.

Dirty.	Fairly Clean	Clean.	Good Light.	Moderate Light.	Damp.
8	23	35	43	23	6

Close.	Through Ventilation.	Back to Back.	Defective Windows.	Windows open day only.	Windows open day and night.
4	60	6	5	18	44

TABLE V.

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS.

Separate Bedroom.	Separate bed, but others in Room.				Others in Bed.				Overcrowding.
	No. in Room.								
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
20	7	5	1	1	17	10	3	2	13

In the next Table (Table VI.) an analysis of the occupation of patients attending the Dispensary is given.

TABLE VI.

ANALYSIS OF TRADE OR OCCUPATION IN 80 CASES
ATTENDING THE DISPENSARY.

TUBERCULOSIS.				ALL FORMS.			
No Occupation	...	1		Grinder	...	...	1
Children at or under				Brass Finisher	...	...	1
School age	...	29		Iron Polishers	...	...	2
House Work	...	4		Steel Bridge Builder	...	...	1
Domestic Servants	...	4		Sheet Filer	...	...	1
Clerks	...	2		Fitter	...	...	1
Coal Miners	...	2		Washer Maker	...	...	1
Painter	...	1		Screwdriver	...	...	1
Whitesmith	...	1		Cycle Repairer	...	...	1
Wood Machinists	...	2		Dry Soap Packers	...	...	2
Electrician	...	1		Sweet Packers	...	...	3
Moulders	...	2		Flour Packer	...	...	1
Tube Welders	...	2		Cabinet Maker	...	...	1
Iron Turner	...	1		Shop Assistants	...	...	2
Hollow-ware Turner	...	1		Book-keeper	...	...	1
Carter	...	1		Glass Worker	...	...	1
Vanman	...	1		Barmaid	...	...	1
Tram Inspector	...	1		Charwomen	...	...	2

Many of these cases have been treated by means of Tuberculin, and though it is as yet too early to speak of results, there is no doubt that Tuberculin carefully given is a valuable weapon in treating Tubercle. Severe "reactions" are carefully avoided, and many of the cases on Tuberculin treatment have up to the present continued successfully at their work.

A few cases have been sent to Sanatorium by the National Health Insurance Committee, and after completion of their treatment there they are transferred to the Dispensary, where they are kept under observation for as long as may be considered necessary.

INFECTIVITY OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

The Royal College of Physicians recently passed the following resolution:—

"That in view of the exaggerated fear of the infectivity of pulmonary tuberculosis entertained by the public, the consequent unnecessary disabilities imposed upon

sufferers from the disease, and the opposition raised in many places to the establishment of institutions for its detection and treatment, a reassuring statement with regard to the degree of danger attaching to contact and communication with tuberculous persons be prepared by the College and issued in its name at an early date.”

A Committee was appointed, consisting of Sir Seymour Sharkey, Drs. Habershon, Sandwith, Fremantle, and C. J. Martin, and the Report of this Committee, which was approved by the College, is given below. It is inserted here as likely to be useful to Medical Officers of Health. It embodies the chief facts on the strength of which the machinery for the administrative control of Tuberculosis, now forming a large part of the work of the medical department of the Board and of Medical Officers of Health, has been initiated.

REPORT ON THE INFECTIVITY OF TUBERCULOSIS.

1. Tuberculosis is an acquired disease, but certain constitutional types may be inherited which render the patient specially susceptible to infection, and there is reason to think that such susceptibility is an inherited character.

2. The infective agent is the tubercle bacillus. This may be contained in the various discharges and excreta of the patient, and especially in the sputum of those suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. No discharge is infective unless it contains the tubercle bacillus.

3. Cases of tuberculosis of bones, glands, and internal organs from which there is no discharge or which do not furnish any excretion, and cases of arrested pulmonary tuberculosis, have never been proved to be infectious.

(By arrest is here meant that all the symptoms and physical signs of activity have disappeared, and the sputum has either ceased or no longer contains tubercle bacilli.)

4. The means by which tubercle bacilli may enter the body are:—

(a) *By inoculation* through a wound or abrasion of the skin.

This has occasionally occurred to workers in laboratories, *post-mortem* attendants, and others dealing with tuberculous material, and is presumably the way in which lupus is acquired.

- (b) *By inhalation*.—Susceptible animals are readily infected by the inhalation of air containing tubercle bacilli, whether in droplets or suspended as fine dust, but in the spread of the disease among human beings the latter appears to be the most important means of infection. The sputum or other discharges, whether on soiled handkerchiefs, linen, garments, or elsewhere, when dried, may become pulverised, and in this condition may be readily dispersed in the air of a room. That droplets of sputum are less important agents of infection is suggested by the fact that the incidence of consumption upon the staff, nurses, and others engaged in hospitals for the treatment of tuberculous disease, where all discharges are carefully disposed of, is not above the average in the general population.
- (c) *By swallowing*.—Dust infected by the tubercle bacillus may be conveyed to food and so enter the alimentary canal; or infection may occur more directly in the act of kissing, or by consumptive and healthy persons using the same food utensils. As about 10 per cent. of the milk supplied to large cities contains tubercle bacilli derived from infected cows, this avenue of infection is particularly important in the case of children. The bovine tubercle bacillus is more commonly responsible for tuberculosis in young children than in adults, but the proportion of cases due to it varies very much in different localities.
- (d) There is no evidence that tuberculosis can be conveyed to others either by the breath alone, or by emanations from patients, or by their garments, unless soiled by dried sputum or discharges.

5. The spread of tuberculosis is favoured by uncleanness, overcrowding, and imperfect ventilation, and is hindered by the opposite conditions. Experience in hospitals and other institutions where the following precautionary measures have been thoroughly carried out indicates that by such measures the risk of infection is reduced to a minimum, namely:—

- (a) The careful disposal and disinfection of the sputum and other discharges.

- (b) The disinfection or destruction of soiled handkerchiefs, clothes, and linen.
- (c) The removal of dust by frequent moist cleansing of the floors, walls, etc., of the rooms.
- (d) The supply of abundant air space and free ventilation with fresh air.

No risk is incurred by living in the immediate neighbourhood of institutions for the treatment of tuberculosis which are properly conducted.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

INTRODUCTION.

In submitting my Sixteenth Annual Report as your Sanitary Inspector, I am glad to be able to state that marked progress has been achieved in almost every branch of the work of my Department.

No change has taken place in the *personnel* of the Inspectorial Staff, and District Inspectors Cotterell and Lyon have loyally co-operated with me throughout the year.

Owing to the great increase in clerical work, you authorised the appointment of a second Clerk in April last, with the result that the services of the senior Clerk were available for a short time for outdoor duties, so that we were able to complete our survey of the whole of the sanitary conveniences in the Borough, with a view to the compilation of a new register. In addition to this special survey, censuses of vacant houses in the Borough were made on two separate occasions, one in connection with the Mayers Green Enquiry and the other later in the year in connection with Housing Enquiry instituted by the Local Government Board, but the routine work has not materially suffered, as may be judged from the total number of inspections of all classes made, viz., 46,903, which is the highest on record for the present staff.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

In consequence of the additional duties devolving upon the staff, the number of systematic house-to-house inspections has been somewhat reduced, but inspections have taken place in Lyndon, Hill Top, and Greets Green Wards, the total number of houses inspected being 732 houses in 15 streets,

representing a population of 3,312. As far as the South-Western District was concerned, our efforts were concentrated on certain notoriously unsatisfactory areas in Greets Green Ward, the results of which are fully detailed in another section of this Report. In accordance with our usual practice, the inspections were made in the first instance under the Public Health Act, 1875, and apart from the Greets Green Ward special areas, notices requiring the amendment of sanitary defects were usually served under this Act. Where, however, it appeared from the Reports of the District Inspectors that the houses were in such a state as to be unfit for human habitation, I have made a personal inspection, in company with the Medical Officer of Health, and where deemed desirable the necessary representations have been made.

The whole of the particulars required by the Regulations made under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1907, have been ascertained, and duly tabulated in the case of each house.

The importance of these systematic inspections in securing the improvement of housing conditions cannot be over-estimated.

MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS.

The number of miscellaneous inspections, which includes the inspection of premises after complaint, the periodical inspections of common yards or courts, and the special visits made in connection with the sanitary survey and the enquiries made by the Local Government Board reaches the large total of 26,806. The inspection of common yards likewise form a very necessary part of the work, the system of the joint user of sanitary conveniences and yards being apt to lead to gross neglect on the part of the respective occupiers, and but for such periodical visits choked and filthy conveniences and offensive accumulations would abound.

NOTICES SERVED AND PROCEEDINGS.

The number of preliminary or intimation notices served, viz., 2,229 referring to 4,598 houses, also exhibits a marked increase, being, indeed, the largest on record. Full particulars are given in Table II.

Seven thousand three hundred and sixty-four visits of re-inspection were subsequently paid to the properties whilst work was in progress or after completion, whilst numerous interviews have taken place with owners or agents, either at the office or on properties.

Circular letters have been sent to owners where Notices have not been complied with, and 273 Statutory Notices were subsequently served. Of these 202 were issued under the various Public Health Acts and 71 under the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1900.

In 59 instances the necessary authorisations for proceedings for non-compliance were obtained, but it was only necessary to issue a summons in a single case. The complaint in this case was due to a recurring nuisance from choked drainage. An adjournment was agreed to, and the ground opened up, when it was found that the drain, which passed under the floor of a living room, was formed of old culvert bricks placed end to end, the underlying soil being saturated with filth. A new cast-iron drain was substituted, and the nuisance having been abated, the summons was withdrawn on payment of costs.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

The total number of nuisances abated was 5,423, the number of sanitary improvements, which constitutes the most reliable index as to the value of the work of the department, being 5,990. A detailed summary of these improvements is given in Table III.

Filthy and Dilapidated Houses and Outbuildings.

Cleansing and whitewashing or re-papering of the interiors of 744 houses has taken place, whilst in 729 cases substantial repairs to plastering, woodwork, and brickwork have been effected. In 203 cases windows of the fixed type have been made to open or other means of ventilation provided.

Attempts have also been made to deal with the evils arising from the damp condition of houses, and in connection therewith 273 roofs have been repaired, defective spouting repaired in 202 cases, whilst defective external brickwork has been repaired or covered with impervious materials in 194 cases.

Two hundred and seventy-three filthy and dilapidated out-buildings have been cleansed and repaired, whilst advantage has been taken of the recently adopted Section 49 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, to secure the substitution of 164 leaking brick sinks with suitable earthenware sinks.

Yard Drainage.

Forty-seven premises previously unconnected with sewer have been drained, 123 lengths of stoneware pipe drains have replaced surface gutters, and in connection therewith 114 inspection chambers have been fixed and 243 yard gullies provided.

Disused Wells.

During the installation of the new systems of drainage just mentioned, 47 disused and inadequately covered wells were found. These were properly filled in in every instance.

Privies, Water-closets, and Ashpits.

Two hundred and eighty-three privies, serving 335 houses, have been replaced by 286 water-closets. This is an increase on the figure for the preceding year, and is very gratifying in view of the small number of privies now remaining in the Borough. It seems, however, to be generally recognised that the perpetuation of the privy midden in urban areas can no longer be tolerated, and very little difficulty has been experienced in inducing owners to make the necessary alterations.

Another pleasing feature is that the tendency to retain the old midden as a dry ashpit has been effectively countered by the new Section in the Corporation Act of 1913. In only four instances have owners failed to supply ashbins, and in all these cases proceedings are being taken.

Seventy-one official representations were made under the Act of 1900, but it was only requisite in five instances for the work to be executed in default.

Some progress has been made in the abolition of the existing dry ashpits, 42 of these unsatisfactory structures having been replaced by ashbins.

OCCUPIERS' NOTICES.

Of the 2,229 Preliminary Notices served, 637 have been addressed to occupiers, dealing with choked and filthy sanitary conveniences, improper keeping of animals, offensive accumulations, overcrowding, etc.

The number of notices referring to overcrowding manifests an increase on the figure for the preceding year, and this although action has only been taken in those cases where the overcrowding was most pronounced in character. The unusually small number of vacant houses has precluded anything approaching to drastic action, and more particularly the putting into force of Section 85 of the Corporation Act of 1913. Some of the cases of overcrowding actually taken up were very bad in character. In one small house, consisting of living room, scullery, and two bedrooms, there were residing four separate families, or 21 persons in all, whilst in another house with two bedrooms one of the rooms was utilised for sleeping purposes by the occupier, his wife, and six children, the second bedroom being used by a woman and her five children.

WORK UNDER THE HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACT, 1909.

As already indicated, the work under the Housing Act has been largely restricted to certain areas in Greets Green Ward. In accordance with your instructions, full and detailed reports, accompanied by plans, have been submitted of houses in the Swan Village, King William, and Old Forge areas, whilst in addition the whole of the houses in Wood Street have received consideration. The members of the Greets Green Property Sub-Committee have paid several visits to the properties in question, whilst owners themselves have also been interviewed. In the Swan Village area 33 houses were represented as unfit for human habitation, and Closing Orders made. Eight in Minshaw's Yard, seven of which were derelict, were voluntarily demolished by the owners. In one case the house was put in a thorough state of repair between the meetings of the Committee and Council, and the Order was, therefore, not served. In five cases Demolition Orders were made, whilst in the remaining instance proceedings were

still pending at the end of the year. In addition, a large number of notices were served under the Public Health Acts, respecting houses which were not in such a state of disrepair as to justify the issue of Closing Orders, and in respect of such notices a considerable number of improvements, including not only cleansing and general repairs of houses and outbuildings, but the provision of earthenware sinks and the laying on of water thereto, paving of yards, and abolition of dry ashpits, and in addition the ventilation of living rooms and pantries.

In respect to the King William area, three Closing Orders were made, one of which was subsequently determined, whilst the two remaining houses, which were built back to back, and three other houses were in part demolished, and the three front houses made into through houses of a thoroughly satisfactory character. A considerable quantity of work has also been effected in this area under the Public Health Acts.

No action has as yet been taken with respect to the Old Forge area, owing to the difficulty of satisfactorily re-housing the large number of occupiers.

In Wood Street, Closing Orders were made with respect to twelve houses, the general conditions being such as to render immediate discontinuance of occupancy imperative.

Summarising the action taken under the Housing Act, I have to report that 54 Closing Orders in all were made, this number being the highest since the passing of the Act. Twenty-four houses have been put in a thorough state of repair, and the Closing Orders either not served or determined. Nine Demolition Orders have been made and 13 houses demolished, 12 voluntarily by owners and one compulsorily. Up to the present it cannot be said that action taken by the Council has accentuated the housing difficulty, for of the 13 houses demolished, eight have been in a derelict condition for a considerable time, whilst nine of the houses made fit for human habitation had not been occupied for some years.

A close supervision of the works incident to housing notices has been maintained, and in all I have paid 715 visits to properties affected.

Two Notices under Section 15 of the Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, were served, and instructions obtained for execution of repairs in default, but the owners subsequently carried out the works themselves.

INSPECTION OF SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLY.

The Meat Inspector (Mr. W. E. Lyon) reports that he paid 1,829 visits to slaughter-houses and 1,486 to butchers' shops. He has inspected 1,987 live animals, 1,899 sides and 1,497 quarters of beef, and the carcasses of 3,873 sheep, lambs, calves, or pigs.

Two cases of generalised Tuberculosis in pigs were discovered, and in 16 instances carcasses were affected with localised Tuberculosis.

The carcasses of two dropsical sheep were also condemned, as were also the internal organs of a cow suffering from hydated cyst, and portions of a bruised pig. In every instance the unfit carcasses or the parts affected were surrendered and destroyed.

The total quantity of meat destroyed was 13 cwt. 59 lbs. Thirteen Magistrates' orders for destruction were obtained in connection with the foregoing surrenders.

Fish, poultry, and fruit shops have been regularly visited.

One annual license was granted in connection with a newly erected slaughter-house at Carters Green, but by arrangement an annual slaughter-house license held by the same butcher in the centre of the town was not renewed. The number of slaughter-houses now on the register is 34, of which 13 are subject to an annual license.

INSPECTION OF WORKSHOPS AND WORKSHOP BAKEHOUSES.

There are 203 workshops, including 40 workshop bake-houses, in the Borough, on the official lists supplied to me by H.M. Inspector of Factories, but I find on inspection that in several cases the occupier is the only person working thereon, and consequently the establishment does not come within the purview of the Factory and Workshops Acts.

I have obtained particulars with respect to cubic space, lighting, ventilation, sanitary accommodation, etc., of a large number of workshops, and when requisite have directed the attention of occupiers to infringements of the Acts or Regulations made thereunder.

Owing to the nature of the general trades carried on in the Borough, ample cubic space is provided for workers in the majority of cases, and it is only in connection with the trades connected with clothing that there is any likelihood of overcrowding taking place, and owing to the marked depression in these latter industries, there has been no tendency shown to exceed the limitations imposed by Statute.

Circular letters have been addressed to the occupiers of bakehouses twice during the year, asking that the limewashing of their establishments should be carried out, and it has only been found necessary in very few instances to subsequently serve a further notice.

The Home Office Inspectors have reported 11 cases of sanitary defects in factories and workshops remediable under the Public Health Acts, particulars of which are as follows:—Factories with unsuitable or insufficient sanitary conveniences, six cases; workshops with unsatisfactory w.c. accommodation, two cases; domestic workshops (or workshops in which no persons other than occupier was employed), requiring to be limewashed, three cases.

The various matters complained of had already been dealt with or were receiving attention at the end of the year.

INSPECTION OF DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Twenty-one applications for registration of Dairies and Cowsheds have been made during the year, and we have now on the Register 24 cowsheds and 138 dairies and milkshops.

The cowsheds and milkshops are regularly visited, and very few infringements of the existing Regulations have been detected. At the same time the existing conditions under which milk is stored and sold leave much to be hoped, and it may be hoped that additional powers will be conferred under the

new Regulations to be made under the Dairies and Cowsheds Act, 1914, which is to come into operation in October next. The provision of a cover to the milk receptacle is much more general than it was some years ago, but the association of the sale of milk with dust-producing articles shows no abatement.

In consequence of the emaciated condition of two cows in one of the cowsheds, the Veterinary Inspector (Mr. Harvey Collett) made a special examination of the cows in the shed, but was of opinion that none of the animals were suffering from Tuberculosis.

Five hundred and forty-seven visits have been paid to dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops during the year.

INSPECTION OF COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

During the year the three common lodging houses have been regularly inspected, 153 visits in all having been made.

There has been a change of management in the Union Street lodging house, with the result that a marked improvement has taken place.

I have, however, frequently to direct the attention of the keeper of the Holloway Bank establishment to certain minor infringements of the Bye-laws, and the renewal of his license was held up for some time.

There are seven houses let in lodgings, and these also have been inspected from time to time.

INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS.

I have inspected 141 canal boats, representing a total population of 132 men, 98 women, and 210 children, the proportion of children again being high. The condition of the boats generally was very fair, and infringements of the Regulations were neither numerous nor serious. The following are the particulars of the infringements:—Non-production of certificate, 1 case; overcrowding, 2 cases; want of painting, 2 cases; leakage and dilapidated boats, 6 cases; certificate did not identify owner of boat, 1 case; boat not properly marked, 1 case.

Twelve notices were served and in ten cases our demands have already been complied with.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

The increased incidence of Scarlet Fever has made considerable demands on the staff, 435 cases of infectious disease having been investigated, re-visits also taking place where patients have not been removed to Hospital.

I have reported on 123 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 34 cases of other forms of Tuberculosis, re-visiting from time to time those cases which were not undergoing treatment under the National Insurance Act.

Four hundred and eighty-four houses have been disinfected, including premises where Tuberculosis had occurred.

WORK UNDER THE INSECT AND OTHER PESTS ACT.

Dr. Loch, of the Board of Agriculture, has paid two or three visits in connection with the above Act, and on one occasion I accompanied him to inspect a garden which had been reported to the Board as infected with potato disease. The necessary notices were served prohibiting the planting of potatoes on the infected area, as were also similar notices on another garden, where I detected the existence of the disease. I inspected several fields where potatoes were being lifted to ascertain that the haulms, etc., were free from infection.

Circulars were distributed to fruiterers relating to the Gooseberry Mildew Order.

REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL AND DRY REFUSE.

As a result of the new sanitary survey, I find that at the end of the year there were 578 privies and 11,638 water-closets used in connection with dwelling houses, lock-up shops, and public buildings.

Owing to the shortage of labour, the work of nightsoil removal, which is undertaken by contract, has not been carried out in a satisfactory fashion since September last, and although there has been at no period a large number of applications for emptying privies on our books, it has not been possible to secure immediate attention thereto.

Were it not for the small proportion of privies remaining to be dealt with, the condition of affairs would have been very serious. At the present time only four per cent. of the houses in the Borough are supplied with privies, the total cost of removing nightsoil being £589 4s. 5d. The total number of emptyings of privies was 1,352.

There are at the present time about 9,650 ashbins, the contents of which are removed weekly, and 912 dry ashpits. The number of loads of dry refuse delivered to the destructor during the twelve months was 10,300, the tonnage being 11,164. Three thousand two hundred and forty-three loads have been taken to tips, representing an estimated tonnage of 3,614, so that in all 13,543 loads or 14,778 tons have been collected.

The corresponding figures for last year were 12,278 and 14,243 respectively. The total quantity of refuse yielded per house was 0.95 load, or by weight 20.06 cwt., as compared with 0.92 load and 20.5 cwt. last year.

The cost of removal of dry refuse, including team hire, wages and maintenance, and renewal of plant and rent of tip was £2,074 8s. 2d., as compared with £1,898 15s. 10d. last year, this increase being occasioned by the larger proportion of dry refuse to be dealt with and increased rates of wages.

The cost of collection per load and per ton work out at 3s. .075d. and 2s. 9.07d. respectively. The corresponding figures for 1913 were 3s. 1.1d. and 2s. 7.9d. respectively.

The total cost of refuse removal was £2,663 12s. 7d., this being the lowest figure within my experience. I append Table showing the total cost of refuse removal since my appointment in 1899. I need scarcely add that owing to the great increase in amount to be paid for horse hire, etc., in the near future, this satisfactory condition of affairs cannot possibly continue.

Allowing £50 for emptying cesspools on the one hand and deducting the cost of removing refuse from the Workhouse and Wigmore Industrial Schools, the annual cost of collecting refuse from a house with a privy was 16s. 8½d., and from a house with a water-closet 2s. 9¾d.

The following shows the annual cost of removal during the last 16 years:—

				£	s.	d.
1899	...	...	...	3,329	16	1
1900	...	...	...	3,260	7	6
1901	...	...	...	3,382	4	11
1902	...	...	...	3,645	11	1
1903	...	...	...	3,721	14	0
1904	...	...	...	3,739	3	7
1905	...	...	...	3,535	19	6
1906	...	...	...	3,491	10	5
1907	...	...	...	3,449	15	8
1908	...	...	...	3,089	17	5
1909	...	...	...	3,157	3	11
1910	...	...	...	3,145	10	10
1911	...	...	...	3,225	6	3
1912	...	...	...	2,769	5	11
1913	...	...	...	2,772	15	9
1914	...	...	...	2,663	12	7

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. H. SPEARS,
Fellow Sanitary Inspectors' Assoc.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

February, 1915.

TABLE I.

House-to-house inspections	...	...	...	732
Visits to houses under Section 17, Housing and Town Planning Act	...	...	...	715
Miscellaneous inspections, including inspections of common yards and houses concerning which com- plaints have been received	...	...	...	26806
Re-inspections	...	...	...	7364
Visits to slaughter-houses	...	...	...	1829
,, ,, dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops	...	...	...	547
,, ,, shops, butchers	...	...	...	1416
,, ,, ,, fish, game and poultry	...	...	...	393
,, ,, workshops and workshop bakehouses	...	...	...	208
,, ,, common lodging houses and houses let in lodgings	...	...	...	197
Number of canal boats inspected	...	...	...	141
Cases of infectious disease visited and reported on...	...	...	...	417
,, ,, ,, ,, re-visited	...	...	...	49
,, ,, pulmonary tuberculosis reported on	...	...	...	123
,, ,, other forms of ,, ,, ,,	...	...	...	34
Other visits in connection with tuberculosis	...	...	...	135
Number of privies, etc., inspected and reported for emptying by staff	...	...	...	719
Number of privies, etc., re-inspected after emptying	...	...	...	3112
Sundry visits	...	...	...	2066
Total number of inspections and visits	...	...	...	46903
Number of preliminary notices served	...	...	...	2229
,, ,, statutory notices served	...	...	...	273
,, ,, letters written to owners <i>re</i> nuisances	...	...	...	190
Notices served under Canal Boats Acts	...	...	...	12
Reports sent to Surveyor <i>re</i> dangerous buildings, etc...	...	...	...	66
Reports sent to Water Company <i>re</i> wastes of water...	...	...	...	218
Number of rooms disinfected	...	...	...	484
Number of reports sent to schools <i>re</i> infectious diseases	...	...	...	279
Number of drains tested...	...	...	...	6

TABLE II.

PRELIMINARY NOTICES SERVED AND NUMBER OF
HOUSES IN CONNECTION WITH NOTICES.

		Notices served.	Houses in connection with Notices.
Filthy and dilapidated houses ...	...	381	888
Filthy and dilapidated outhouses ...	...	144	324
Defective paving and surface channels ...	...	35	90
Defective eaves and downspouting ...	...	37	78
Foul, untrapped drainage ...	...	12	36
Choked drainage ...	...	47	69
Insufficient ashbin accommodation ...	...	554	1518
„ sanitary „ ...	...	7	11
Foul, wet and open middens ...	...	166	313
Defective W.C. connections ...	...	143	307
Filthy state of sanitary conveniences ...	...	538	708
Overcrowded rooms ...	...	59	59
Animals improperly kept ...	...	17	17
Offensive accumulations ...	...	31	49
Water in cellars ...	...	7	11
Insufficient water supply ...	...	16	45
Filthy and dilapidated bakehouses ...	...	7	7
Dairies and cowsheds not in accordance with regulations ...	...	5	5
Dangerous wells and cisterns ...	...	16	55
Miscellaneous ...	...	7	8
Totals ...	...	2229	4598

TABLE III.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN
DISTRICT IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS
MADE AND NOTICES SERVED.*Interior of Houses—*

Filthy houses cleansed and whitewashed...	...	744
Houses in which repairs to plastering, brickwork or woodwork have been carried out	... ..	729
Flooded cellars drained or filled in	... ..	22
Houses without sufficient means of ventilation, window openings or other means of ventilation, provided	... ..	263

Exterior of Houses—

Defective roofs made watertight	... ..	273
Houses without eaves spouting, or with choked or defective spouting—new spouting provided or existing spouting cleansed and repaired	... ..	202
Damp external walls. Brickwork repaired or covered with impervious material	... ..	194
Dangerous chimneys repaired	... ..	70

Yards and Outbuildings—

Surface paving in yards provided, renewed or repaired	... ..	96
Dangerous wells or cisterns filled in or suitable coverings provided	... ..	47
New earthenware sinks provided in lieu of old brick sinks	... ..	164
Filthy and dilapidated outbuildings cleansed and repaired	... ..	273

Drainage—

Absence of or insufficient drainage. Premises drained and connected to sewer	... ..	47
Surface Channels abolished and stoneware pipe drains provided	... ..	123
Defective Drainage relaid or repaired	... ..	75
Number of Manhole inspection chambers provided to drainage systems	... ..	114
Additional gullies fixed	... ..	243
Choked drainage opened and cleansed	... ..	155

Privies, Water-closets and Ashpits—

Privies abolished	283
Middens abolished	...	...	...	...	218
Dry ashpits abolished and dustbins substituted	...				42
Water-closets with flush cisterns substituted for privies	...	...	...	...	286
Fresh water-closets substituted for waste water-closets					6
Galvanised dustbins provided in lieu of middens	...				281
Additional ashbins provided	...	...	...		591
Middens abolished and converted into dry ashpits					4
Defective W.C. connections made good	...	...			130
Insufficient supply of water to W.C.'s. Flush improved	...	...	...	...	27
Defective tippers renewed and inspection chambers provided to waste water-closets	...	...			10

Keeping of Animals and Offensive Accumulations—

Nuisances from the keeping of swine abated	...				7
Fowls or other poultry kept in dwelling-houses or so as to be a nuisance—removed from premises	...				12

Overcrowding—

Houses overcrowded—numbers reduced			64
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Miscellaneous—

Manure pits provided or repaired			2
Miscellaneous nuisances abated			14
Filthy approaches to privies and filthy conveniences cleansed by occupiers	...	...	...		132

Water Supply—

Houses without a proper supply of drinking water—water laid on		20
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Factory and Workshops Act—

Filthy and dilapidated workshops and bakehouses cleansed or repaired		15
Closet accommodation provided or repaired	...				5

Dairies and Milk Shops Regulations—

Dairies cleansed and limewashed			10
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Infectious Diseases—

Walls cleansed and stripped		7
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Total	...				5990
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TABLE IV.
RESULT OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Situation of Premises.	Nature of Complaint	Act under which Proceedings instituted.	Result.
Nos. 140 to 150, Whitehall Road	Choked Drainage	Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 94.	Case adjourned to enable owner to abate nuisance. Nuisance subsequently abated, and defendant paid costs and summons withdrawn.

Food and Drugs Inspector's Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1914.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I beg to submit a Report of the work carried out under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts during the year ending December 31st, 1914.

I have obtained 140 samples under the provisions of the above Acts, consisting of the following:—New Milk, 69; Butter, 53; Cheese, 1; Margarine, 5; Lard, 1; Cream, 2; Cream of Tartar, 1; Coffee, 8.

These were all submitted to and were analysed by the Public Analyst, who certified 118 samples (84.29 per cent.) as “genuine,” 9 samples (6.43 per cent.) as “genuine but of low quality,” and 12 samples (9.28 per cent.) as “adulterated.”

All the inferior samples were milks.

The adulterated samples consisted of 12 milks and 1 cream.

The sample of cream is classed as “adulterated.” No notification of preservative was given, as required by the Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912. The vendor was cautioned.

Four of the milks (taken on delivery) contained added water, and were deficient of butter fat. Proceedings were instituted, and after the first case had been heard, and a conviction obtained, notice of appeal was given.

On the decision of the High Court, the conviction was quashed, 10s. 6d. costs in eight cases being allowed, £4 4s. 0d. in all.

In another of the adulterated milks the case was withdrawn on payment of costs, £1 16s. 0d.

The adulteration of one of the samples was not sufficient to warrant proceedings, and the vendor was cautioned.

The remaining 6 adulterated samples were taken in course of delivery to the vendor in the last-mentioned case, and all contained added water. In two cases the percentage was small, and proceedings were taken in four cases. Convictions were obtained in each case, the fines amounting to £12 and £6 19s. 10d. costs.

SUMMARY.

Nature of Food or Drug.	No. of Samples Analysed.	Genuine.	Genuine, but of Low Quality.	Adulterated.	Cautioned.	Prosecuted.	Convicted.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs For.	Amount of Costs Against.	REMARKS.
New Milk	69	48	9	12	1	9	*6	£ 12 0 0	£ s. d. 12 19 10	£ s. d. 4 4 0	20% added water, 13% deficit. of butter fat 25 " " " 10 " " " " 13 " " " 9 " " " " 10 " " " " " " " " 17% deficient of butter fat 5 " " " " " 6% added water 10 " " " " 12 " " " " 14 " " " " 4 " " " " 11 " " " "
Butter ...	53	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Margarine	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cheese ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lard ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cream ...	2	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	*45 Boric Acid
Coffee ..	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cream of } Tartar }	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	140	118	9	13	2	9	6	£ 12 0 0	£ s. d. 12 19 10	£ s. d. 4 4 0	

*One conviction reversed on appeal to High Court. One withdrawn on payment of costs.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. WM. DAVIS.

Analyst's Report.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee,
County Borough of West Bromwich.*

GENTLEMEN,

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Herewith I beg to submit for your perusal a *resume* of the work carried out under the above Acts in your Borough during the year 1914. Mr. Davis and his Assistants took 140 samples for analysis, and these, as in previous Reports, are divided into two classes, according to the procedure followed at the time of purchase, namely, formal and informal samples.

When purchasing formal samples, all the formalities of the Acts are observed, and in the event of adulteration being discovered, action against the vendor can be at once taken, without further preliminaries. Seventy-one samples were procured after this fashion.

With the informal method of purchasing samples, greater freedom is possible in the employment of agents making the purchases, and occasionally this method has directed attention to serious adulteration, which under the routine and stricter procedure might have escaped detection. The number of samples obtained in this way during the past year was 69, but no serious breach of the Act was discovered by this procedure. Below I give the usual Table, which in addition to the Summary of the samples analysed divides them into three classes according to their quality, viz.:—

- (1) Genuine and of good quality.
- (2) Genuine but of poor quality, complying with the necessary low official limits.
- (3) Adulterated.

Description of Articles.	Total Number of Samples.	Officially Purchased Samples.	Unofficially Purchased Samples.	Genuine Samples.	Genuine Samples of Low Quality.		Adulterated Samples.		Remarks.
					Official.	Unofficial.	Official.	Unofficial.	
Milk ...	69	69	...	48	9	...	12	...	Preservatives absent.
Butter	53	...	53	53	...	...	..	...	Boron preservatives present in one sample.
Margarine	5	...	5	5	...	..	...	...	Preservatives absent.
Cream	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	
Coffee	8	...	8	8	...	...	...	...
Cheese	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Lard ...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Cream of Tartar	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
	140	71	69	118	9	...	12	1	

The number of samples returned as adulterated shows a considerable increase on the previous year, for whereas in 1913 only one article was condemned, or a percentage of .72, this year 13, or a percentage of 9.2, had been tampered with.

The appended Table gives particulars of the adulterated samples and also states what actions were taken against the vendors:—

Description and Number of Sample.	Results of Analysis.	Remarks.
Milk (Sample 1991) ...	Added water 20%. Deficient of 13% of its natural milk fat.	Vendor prosecuted and fined. Case dismissed on legal point on appeal.
Milk (Sample 1992) ...	Added water 25%. Deficient of 10% of its natural milk fat.	Dismissed for same reason.
Milk (Sample 2001) ...	Added water 13%. Deficient of 9% of its natural milk fat.	Do.
Milk (Sample 2002) ...	Added water 10%.	Do.
Cream (Sample 2010) ...	Boron compounds present to the extent of 45%, stated as Boric Acid.	Vendor cautioned. Un-official sample.
Milk (Sample 2043) ...	Deficient of 17% of its natural milk fat.	Summons withdrawn on payment of costs, £1 16s.
Milk (Sample 2063) ...	Deficient of 5% of its natural milk fat.	Vendor cautioned.
Milk (Sample 2111) ...	Added water 6%.	Vendor fined £3 and £4 5s. 10d. costs.
Milk (Sample 2112) ...	Added water 10%.	Vendor fined £3 and 18s. costs.
Milk (Sample 2113) ...	Added water 12%.	Vendor fined £3 and 18s. costs.
Milk (Sample 2114) ...	Added water 14%.	Vendor fined £3 and 18s. costs.
Milk (Sample 2115) ...	Added water 4%.	No action taken. Vendor as 2111.
Milk (Sample 2116) ...	Added water 11%.	Vendor fined £3 and 18s. costs.

Proceedings were taken in ten instances against the vendors of adulterated foods, fines and costs being imposed in five cases, and costs only in one case, owing to extenuating circumstances. With regard to the four cases showing gross adulteration, the facts were not seriously disputed, but unfortunately, a copy of the certificate was not served with each summons. The Stipendiary held that the summons might be amended, and convicted the vendor, but on an appeal the contrary view was taken by the Justices, and all the cases were dismissed.

The considerable increase in the milk adulterations is, I believe, explained by the fact that in the previous year, owing to the purity of the supply, there were no prosecutions. This fact possibly gave rise to the impression that inspection was not being seriously carried on, and several wholesale dealers would appear to have attempted to take advantage of this supposed laxness. The publicity resulting from the prosecutions, indicating that systematic inspection is taking place as usual, will probably have again the effect of reducing the adulteration of this most important food. Two instances are recorded in the Table of slight sophistication, in which no action was taken; a sample of cream containing boric acid had no disclosure of the preservative on the label, and a sample of milk showed a slight deficiency of cream. In each case the vendors were cautioned. It is satisfactory to be able to report the absence of preservatives from the milk supply. The whole of the butters proved to be genuine, as regards the freedom from foreign fat and excess water. One sample only was found to be preserved with boron compound, but its percentage, stated as boric acid, was only .28 per cent., which is well below the limit of .5 per cent., and it was therefore passed genuine.

All the other articles included in the Table proved to be genuine and call for no special comment.

I remain, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,
(Signed) HARRY SILVESTER, B.Sc., F.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

17th May, 1915.

